

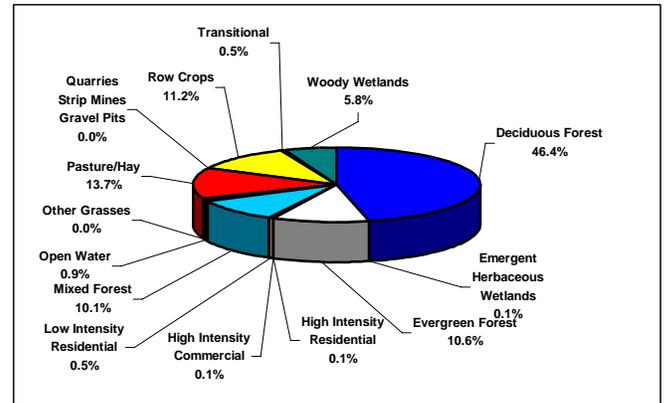
# Summary – Little Hatchie River Watershed

In 1996, the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation Division of Water Pollution Control adopted a watershed approach to water quality. This approach is based on the idea that many water quality problems, like the accumulation of point and nonpoint pollutants, are best addressed at the watershed level. Focusing on the whole watershed helps reach the best balance among efforts to control point sources of pollution and polluted runoff as well as protect drinking water sources and sensitive natural resources such as wetlands. Tennessee has chosen to use the USGS 8-digit Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC-8) as the organizing unit.

The Watershed Approach recognizes awareness that restoring and maintaining our waters requires crossing traditional barriers (point vs. nonpoint sources of pollution) when designing solutions. These solutions increasingly rely on participation by both public and private sectors, where citizens, elected officials, and technical personnel all have opportunities to participate. The Watershed Approach provides the framework for a watershed-based and community-based approach to address water quality problems.

Chapter 1 of the Little Hatchie River Watershed Water Quality Management Plan discusses the Watershed Approach and emphasizes that the Watershed Approach is not a regulatory program or an EPA mandate; rather it is a decision-making process that reflects a common strategy for information collection and analysis as well as a common understanding of the roles, priorities, and responsibilities of all stakeholders within a watershed. Traditional activities like permitting, planning and monitoring are also coordinated in the Watershed Approach.

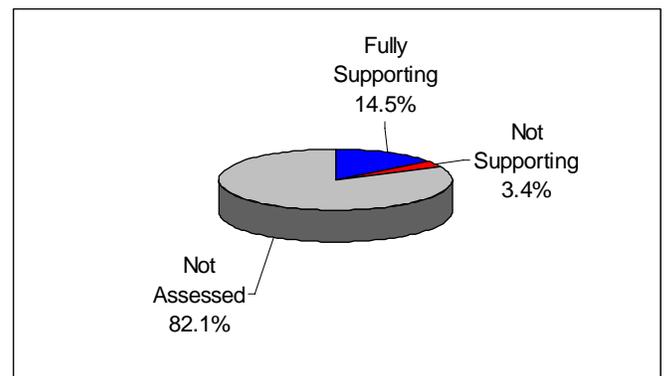
A detailed description of the watershed can be found in Chapter 2. The Little Hatchie River Watershed is approximately 1,461 square miles (1,446 mi<sup>2</sup> in Tennessee) and includes parts of three Tennessee counties. A part of the Mississippi River drainage basin, the watershed has 752.5 stream miles.



*Land Use Distribution in the Tennessee Portion of the Little Hatchie River Watershed.*

One state scenic river segment and one state environmental education area are located in the watershed. Twenty-three rare plant and animal species have been documented in the watershed, including three rare fish species and one rare crustacean species.

A review of water quality sampling and assessment is presented in Chapter 3. Using the Watershed Approach to Water Quality, 126 sampling events occurred in the Little Hatchie River Watershed in 2000-2005. These were conducted at ambient, ecoregion or watershed monitoring sites. Monitoring results support the conclusion that 81.0% of stream miles assessed fully support one or more designated uses.



*Water Quality Assessment of Streams and Rivers in the Little Hatchie River Watershed. Assessment data are based on the 2004 Water Quality Assessment of 752.5 stream miles in the watershed.*

Also in Chapter 3, a series of maps illustrate overall use support in the watershed, as well as use support for the individual uses of Fish and Aquatic Life Support, Recreation, Irrigation, and Livestock Watering and Wildlife. Another series of maps illustrate streams that are listed for impairment by specific causes (pollutants) such as pathogens, habitat alteration, and nutrient enrichment, and siltation.

Point and Nonpoint Sources are addressed in Chapter 4. Chapter 4 is organized by HUC-12 subwatersheds. Maps illustrating the locations of STORET monitoring sites and stream gauging stations are also presented in each subwatershed.

HUC-10	HUC-12
0801020702	080102070202 (Bridge Creek)
	080102070203 (Cain Creek)
	080102070208 (Tuscumbia Creek)
0801020704	080102070401 (Hatchie River)
	080102070408 Hatchie River)
	080102070409 (Mosses Creek)
0801020705	080102070501 (Muddy Creek)
0801020706	080102070601 (Upper Cypress Creek)
	080102070602 (Muddy Creek)
	080102070603 (Lower Cypress Creek)
0801020707	080102070701 (Upper Little Hatchie Creek)
	080102070702 (Lower Little Hatchie Creek)

*The Tennessee Portion of the Little Hatchie River Watershed is Composed of twelve USGS-Delineated Subwatersheds (12-Digit Subwatersheds).*

Point source contributions to the Tennessee portion of the Little Hatchie River Watershed consist of two individual NPDES-permitted facilities. Other point source permits in the watershed are Tennessee Multi-Sector Permits (9), Aquatic Resource Alteration Permits (3), Mining Permits (2), and Ready Mix Concrete Plant Permits (1). Agricultural operations include cattle, hog, and sheep farming. Maps illustrating the locations of permit sites and tables summarizing livestock practices are presented in each subwatershed.

Chapter 5 is entitled *Water Quality Partnerships in the Little Hatchie River Watershed* and highlights partnerships between agencies and between agencies and landowners that are essential to success. Programs of federal agencies (Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Geological Survey, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers), and state agencies (TDEC/State Revolving Fund, TDEC Division of Water Supply, Tennessee Department of Agriculture, West Tennessee River Basin Authority, and Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality) are summarized. Local initiatives of organizations active in the watershed (Friends of West Tennessee Refuges, The Nature Conservancy, and Chickasaw-Shiloh RC&D Council) are also described.

Point and Nonpoint source approaches to water quality problems in the Little Hatchie River Watershed are addressed in Chapter 6. Chapter 6 also includes comments received during public meetings, links to EPA-approved TMDLs in the watershed, and an assessment of needs for the watershed.

The full Little Hatchie River Watershed Water Quality Management Plan can be found at: <http://www.state.tn.us/environment/wpc/watershed/wsmplans/>